

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /049 W  
-----012490 201843Z /44

R 201400Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3946  
INFO USIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
USMISSION NATO  
USINFO WASHDC

UNCLAS OSLO 2886

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, NO, SP  
SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN REACTION TO SPANISH ELECTIONS

THOUGH NEWS OF THE SPANISH ELECTIONS WAS WELL-COVERED IN ALL MAJOR NORWEGIAN MEDIA, REACTION TO THE OUTCOME HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY SLIGHT. NO TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HAS YET MADE ANY PUBLIC COMMENT.

THE ONLY REACTION FROM THE LABOR PARTY HAS COME FROM TWO LEADING LABORITES WHO WERE INTERVIEWED BY THE PARTY'S NATIONAL DAILY ARBEIDERBLADET. LABOR MP TOR OFTEDAL, CHAIRMAN OF THE STORTING FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, SAID: "SPANISH DEMOCRACY HAS CONSOLIDATED ITSELF MORE QUICKLY THAN I WOULD HAVE IMAGINED SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS AGO. PERSONALLY, I WAS HOPING THE SOCIALISTS WOULD DO EVEN BETTER, BUT ALL IN ALL IT IS POSITIVE THAT THE SPANISH VOTERS HAVE SUPPORTED THOSE WHO WILL BUILD ON DEMOCRACY. SPANISH DEMOCRACY IS OFF TO A GOOD START." NATIONAL TRADE UNION INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KAARE SANDEGREN, IN AN ARBEIDERBLADET INTERVIEW, SAID: "THE PEACEFUL TRANSITION MAKES SPAIN  
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A MODEL FOR OTHER COUNTRIES THAT STILL ARE UNDER DICTATORSHIP." HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THE SOCIALISTS "SHOULD HAVE HAD MORE VOTES" BUT THAT "THE ELECTION LAWS FAVORED THE CONSERVATIVES."

IN OTHER INDIVIDUAL REACTION, KARE WERNER, SECRETARY OF THE NORWEGIAN SPANISH COMMITTEE WHICH FOR

YEARS VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED THE FRANCO REGIME, SAID:  
"IN VIEW OF THE HIGH TURNOUT, I THINK THE SPANISH  
PEOPLE WILL NOW COME OVER TO DEMOCRACY. I AM PARTI-  
CULARLY HAPPY THAT THE SOCIALISTS DID SO WELL AND  
THAT THE FAR RIGHT HAD SO LITTLE SUPPORT. THE GOOD  
RESULTS FOR THE CENTER UNION CAN BE EXPLAINED BY  
THE FACT THAT IT WAS SUAREZ WHO BROUGHT DEMOCRATI-  
ZATION SAFELY INTO PORT." ASKED ABOUT SPANISH MEM-  
BERSHIP IN NATO, WERNER REPLIED: "I THINK IT'S  
TOO EARLY TO TAKE A POSITION. TIME WILL TELL.  
IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER OR NOT THE DEMOCRA-  
TIZATION IS EFFECTIVE."

THREE LEADING NORWEGIAN DAILIES HAVE EDITORIALIZED  
ON THE ELECTIONS.

NORWAY'S LARGEST DAILY, AFTENPOSTEN (CONSERVATIVE),  
SAID: "THE HEAVY TURNOUT CLEARLY CONFIRMS THAT THE  
SPANISH INTEND TO USE THEIR NEWLY WON POLITICAL FREE-  
DOM TO FORM DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS... THE NOR-  
MALIZATION OF POLITICAL LIFE IN SPAIN SHOULD LEAD  
TO STRONGER TIES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES." THE PAPER  
ALSO NOTED THAT THE NORWEGIAN SOCIALISTS HAVE  
SHOWN NOTICEABLE RESERVE TOWARD THE SPANISH LEADERS,  
BUT IT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS ATTITUDE WILL CHANGE  
EVEN THOUGH SPAIN WILL NOT HAVE A SOCIALIST GOVERN-  
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MENT.

THE MAJOR LABOR PARTY DAILY, ARBEIDERBLADET, SAID:  
"SPAIN HAS TAKEN A GIANT STEP TOWARD DEMOCRACY"  
AND "THE SOCIALISTS' CONVINCING RESULT IS A FINE  
INSPIRATION FOR ALL WHO FIGHT FOR DEMOCRATIC SO-  
CIALISM." THE PAPER ADDED THAT "PRIME MINISTER  
SUAREZ WILL DO WELL TO NOTE THAT THE LESTISTS  
PULLED NEARLY HALF OF THE VOTES. HIS MOST REA-  
LISTIC ALTERNATIVE WILL BE TO ACHIEVE SOME KIND  
OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE LEFTIST PARTIES."

RADICAL/LIBERAL DAILY DAGBLADET WAS LESS ENTHUSI-  
ASTIC. IT SAID: "THE STARTING POSITION AFTER THE  
ELECTION IS NOT THE BEST. THE CENTER UNION FOR  
THE MOST PART CONSISTS OF FORMER SERVANTS OF THE  
FRANCO REGIME WHO HAVE COME TO REALIZE THEIR PO-  
SITIONS OF POWER NOW NEED DEMOCRATIC JUSTIFICA-  
TION... THE CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY MAY IN FACT  
PROLONG THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS AND AT WORST  
LEAD TO A CONTINUATION OF FRANCO'S AUTHORITARIAN  
RULE."

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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